

NUMBER

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COMIC SHOP NEWS

TM

New Deadman Miniseries: A Serious Undertaking

Deadman is still dead.

That's the good news. The bad news is that his situation may be getting worse.

Deadman has been dead for over two decades now; his venture into the afterlife began in *Strange Adventures* #208 and has continued through a variety of comics since then, including *Challengers of the Unknown* and *Action Comics Weekly*.

In the upcoming *Deadman: Love After Death* two-issue limited series from DC, Deadman finds that his situation isn't as unique as he thinks, however.

Deadman was Boston Brand, a circus aerialist who was gunned down while performing his act. Through the years, he has tried to find his killer—and



to find his role in the afterlife. In *Deadman: Love After Death*, he discovers the existence of another spirit like himself—the spirit of a female aerialist who may have been killed by her own husband. Deadman discovers love after death, as the title says—but her still-living husband continues to haunt his wife's spirit's happiness by unleashing various side-show horrors to keep them apart. As if this isn't enough, there's something even more serious and ominous threatening to ruin their happiness...

Deadman: Love After Death is written by Mike Baron and illustrated by

Kelley Jones. Baron and Jones previously told the saga of Deadman in the *Action Comics Weekly* series. Joining them will be colorist Les Dorscheid, who will render the prestige-format series in full process color.

The first issue of *Deadman: Love After Death*, a 48-page prestige-format \$3.95 book, will be on sale on November 9th.

--by WAYNE LEE



THIS WEEK IN COMIC SHOP NEWS

BATMAN & GRENDEL SET TO MEET

AVENGERS
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RETURNS TO
OLD HAUNTS

MAYFAIR REVISES
DC GAME

IRON MAN'S POWER
RETURNS IN TPB

PLUS AN EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH
MIKE BARON



From

A-1 COMICS

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A Comics Specialty Outlet

Eclipse's line has undergone some changes lately. The company has begun to move away from a line of monthly comic book titles towards prestige-format mini-series, trade paperbacks, and graphic albums. As a part of this new format, Eclipse is expanding its line of classic comic books and comic strips offered in durable paperback and hardcover formats. This September and October, Eclipse will offer several new volumes sure to appeal to fans of comics art, for they feature the works of such major talents as Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Wally Wood, Walt Kelly, and Frank Frazetta.

The Jack Kirby Treasury Volume 3: The Simon & Kirby Studio 1940-1960 is a comprehensive, profusely illustrated look at the amazingly productive Simon and Kirby decades. Written by Greg Theakston, who also did the first volume that was released several years ago, the book draws from extensive interviews with Jack Kirby and Joe Simon, and offers insights into the collaborations of the two men who created Captain America, The Boy Commandos, the Newsboy

Eclipse Cultivates the Classics This Fall

Legion, Young Love, Boys' Ranch, Fighting American (soon to be reprinted in hardcover by Marvel) and others. The book will even present never-before-seen unpublished Simon and Kirby work and pencil drawings from the Golden Age. The 96-page **Kirby Treasury Volume 3** should be available in comics shops in late September for \$9.95.

One of the most popular artists in the fantasy field, Frank Frazetta, did a little-remembered comic strip, **Johnny Comet**, in the early 1960s. The entire strip has never been reprinted; a partial edition was published almost two decades ago, but it wasn't until recently that high-quality copies of the entire series were located. Eclipse will collect every

Frazetta installment of **Johnny Comet** in a large 160-page black-and-white trade paperback priced at \$14.95. **The Complete Johnny Comet** should be released in early October.

A week later, **Pogo and Albert: The Complete Pogo Comics Volume 1** hits the comics racks. This full color graphic album will reprint hard-to-find Pogo comics stories (not comic strips, mind you, but stories done for comic books that predate the popular newspaper strip). The first volume will feature stories from **Animal Comics #1-5, Our Gang #6, and Animal Comics #8, 9, and 10** (not every issue of **Animal Comics** contained a pogo story). Five of the seven stories in the first book have never been reprinted. **The Com-**

plete Pogo Comics Volume 1 will cost \$6.95.

Finally, in late October, Eclipse has two classic releases set. The first, **The Mysterious Traveller: The Classic Series by Ditko**, will reprint 120 pages of prime Steve Ditko fantasy tales from the late 1950's in full color. The stories focus on "a man who walks in the shadows of life," as Eclipse describes it; this format was the precursor for such anthology series as HBO's *The Hitchhiker*. **The Mysterious Traveller** will carry a \$9.95 price tag.

The other late October release is the **Wally Wood Sketchbooks**, a black and white graphic album featuring an insightful look at the works of Wally Wood. There was an earlier book published under this title by Bill Crouch; the Eclipse edition, which is edited by Crouch, is an expanded version of that limited release, featuring additional essays on Wood's career and his approach to art. **The Wally Wood Sketchbooks** will cost \$9.95.

--by CLIFF BIGGERS

NUMBER **112** **COMIC SHOP NEWS**

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FROM

A COMICS SPECIALTY OUTLET

Silverback Shines On Comico's October Schedule

Grendel's popularity in Comico's monthly comics line-up has led to the creation of a three-issue mini-series set in the Grendel universe. That mini-series, **Silverback**, is set for October release from Comico; it will focus on Argent, the caustic law-enforcing wolf from the early pages of **Grendel**.

Matt Wagner, **Grendel's** creator, will co-plot **Silverback** with William Messner-Loebs, who is also the writer and artist of the series. Messner-Loebs will be joined by artist



John Peck and colorist Bernie Mireault; Ron Turner will do the covers for the series. The new mini-series will draw on Messner-Loebs' extensive knowledge of American Indian lore.

Each issue of **Silverback** will deal with a different period in Argent's life. Wagner said that, "by using three distinctive periods (the 16th Century, the American Revolutionary Period, and the late 1970's), **Silverback** shows an overview of Argent's long and

painful existence."

Silverback will convey a strong mood of terror; at the same time, the series will explore the personality of Argent. Messner-Loebs has been praised for his characterization in such comics series as **Journey, Flash**, and **Jonny Quest**.

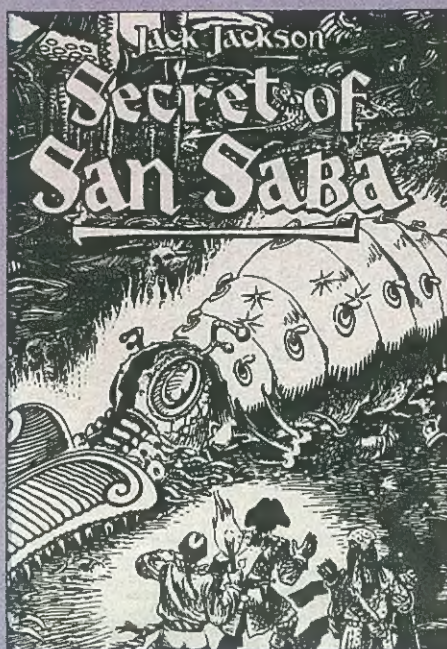
The first issue of **Silverback** will be released in late October; each issue will feature 32 full-color pages for \$2.50.

--by JUDY WALKER

Kitchen Sink Explores Secret of San Saba

Jack "Jaxon" Jackson has done all too little comics work in recent years. His major project was an ongoing serial, "Bulto," that ran in Kitchen Sink's *Death Rattle*. Now Kitchen Sink is giving comics fans a chance to enjoy what they refer to as "a little Cosmic Slug Fest" (and that doesn't mean what you think!) in one book, a trade paperback entitled **Secret of San Saba** that collects all eleven chapters of the Bulto serial.

In addition to containing all installments of the Bulto storyline, **Secret of San Saba** will also feature three new pages that Jaxon has created for this book, a new forward and afterward, and photos, chapter headings, and a map created for this book.

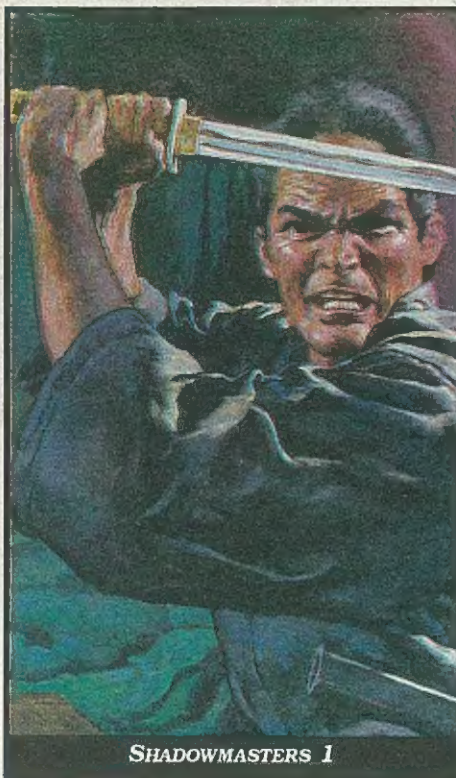


Secret of San Saba tells the story of the descent of a giant slug from outer space, a "Bulto"; it tells how the slug produced and spreads the shiny metal silver through the Apache country of Texas, and how a religion grows around it. It then details the conflicts that occur when the Spanish and their missionaries arrive.

Secret of San Saba, a 152-page book, will feature a five-color cover (the four standard colors used for all covers plus silver metallic ink). The book, set for October release, will be offered in two editions, a \$12.95 softcover and a \$25 signed and numbered hardcover. **Secret of San Saba** is recommended for mature readers.

--by CLIFF BIGGERS

Cover Confusion Clarified



The great thing about our new color format is that it enables us to bring readers previews in, as they used to say, living color. The not-so-great thing is that if we make a mistake, it also runs in color. Which is what has happened. The art that accompanied the story about the new **Destroyer** series from Marvel



in **CSN 100** is from another upcoming Marvel series, **Shadowmasters**. So, here's both covers again, properly labeled. Our apologies for any confusion caused. It is the policy of **Comic Shop News** to correct errors of fact when they appear in our pages.

--by WARD BATTY

NEWS BRIEFS

BATMAN AND GRENDL SET TO MEET

Over the years, there have been many, many rumors of multi-company crossovers, but nothing has come of most of them in the years following the superb Marvel-DC *X-Men-Teen Titans* crossover book. Now it appears that another inter-company crossover is not only possible, but likely to occur sometime next year. Contracts have been signed for a *Batman-Grendel* crossover project to be written and illustrated by Matt Wagner, the creator of *Grendel*. The plot of the crossover has been approved and a few opening pages were displayed at the recent Chicago Comics Convention. CSN will bring you more information about this special project as it becomes available.

ROACHMILL'S EARLY TALES FIND NEW LEGS IN ANTHOLOGY FORMAT

Roachmill, the popular offbeat series by Hedden & McWeeney about a man who will, for a price, exterminate virtually anything, seems to have found its audience since its move last year to Dark Horse Comics. The early Blackthorne issues were collected into a trade paperback earlier this year, and proved to be very, very popular; as a result, Dark Horse has announced a second *Roachmill* collection for October release. *Roachmill Collection Volume Two* will feature 112 pages of story and art from the final two Blackthorne issues and the first Dark Horse issue. The trade paperback will also feature a new cover; the entire package will be priced at \$6.95.

AVENGERS REASSEMBLE IN MARVEL MASTERWORKS

The second new *Marvel Masterworks* volume for 1989 will feature *Avengers* #11-20. These issues present the first major shake-up in the Avengers line-up (this was back in a time when we pretty much assumed that a superhero team's line-up stayed more or less the same forever. As always, *Marvel Masterworks* #9 will be presented in hard-cover format with fully recolored artwork that faithfully follows the original coloring, a five-color dustjacket, and high quality printing on durable paper. Those of you who complained that the *Masterworks* volumes came out too close together for your budget to recover last year will be pleased that Marvel is releasing this year's editions on a one-a-month schedule: *Marvel Masterworks* 9: *Avengers* #11-20, priced at \$29.95, is set for end-of-September release.

X-MEN, BATMAN, AND PUNISHER

Comics Interview has a trio of surefire hits set for September-October release. *Comics Interview* #76 will feature a look at the changes in store for the X-Men, focusing on the new characters in line for future issues and the fate of Wolverine; this issue will carry a \$3.95 pricetag. A month later, *Comics Interview* #77 will take a look at the plans for *Batman II*, including plots, writers, and casting, all in a \$4.50 package. Finally, *Comics Interview* will offer a Special Edition featuring over 100 pages of material dealing with the Punisher, including interviews with Zeck, Beatty, Polts, Baron, Conway, Grant, Zimelman, and more, along with photos from the upcoming film. This special squarebound volume will be priced at \$9.95.



GRAPHITTI EXPANDS FANS' WARDROBE

This September, Graphitti has three t-shirts on line that should appeal to almost any sort of comics fan. Leading off the trio of t's is the third *Batman* t-shirt; this one features the full-color cover to *Detective Comics* #33 on a white shirt. If your Batman t-shirt wardrobe is like CSN cohort Lanny Latham's (which means your closet is packed with almost every Batman shirt you can get), you might want the variety of Graphitti Design's Ralph Snart shirt, featuring a full-color original illustration by Marc Hansen, Snart's creator.



Finally, for those who find fantasy more in their line of interest, there's a new full-color *Elfquest* t-shirt featuring art by Wendy Pini. Each shirt is priced at \$12.95—at such a low price, how can you afford not to be a well-dressed comics fan?!

IRON MAN'S POWER RETURNS IN TPB

The Power of Iron Man, one of Marvel's early trade paperbacks, reprinted the very popular storyline from *Iron Man* #224-320; this series dealt with Tony Stark's awareness of his alcoholism problem. Unfortunately, this trade paperback has been out of print for several years. Someone at Marvel finally noticed, though, and they've put the book back on schedule for September 21st release. The book features seven issues of Iron Man by David Michelinie, John Romita Jr., and Bob Layton; a Bill Sienkiewicz cover tops the whole thing off!

MR. MONSTER RETURNS TO HIS OLD HAUNTS

Mr. Monster has been getting around a bit lately, dropping in for visits at 3-D Zone and A1—but fans of the Michael T. Gilbert series have been wondering what was happening with the *Mr. Monster* title from Dark Horse. The book had been "on vacation" for a while, leaving readers hanging in the middle of Mr. Monster's origin. According to Dark Horse Michael T. Gilbert is back at work in the Dark Horse corral, and *Mr. Monster* #6 will be available in mid-October. The storyline will continue to develop the conflict between the Inner Circle of the Vortex and the young Strongfort Stearn, who hopes to claim his place as the new Mr. Monster. *Mr. Monster* #6 will be a 32-page black and white comic with full color covers priced at \$1.95.

MAYFAIR REVISES DC GAME

Mayfair Games' popular DC role-playing game has been a solid seller since its release, but the folks at Mayfair have decided that there are improvements that can be made, so they're making them. The second edition *DC Heroes RolePlaying Game* "is more than a repackaging," according to Mayfair's Darwin Bromley. "It's a fully re-edited, up-to-date role-playing game. The editors have been working on this project since 1985, and have put a lot of love and care into the changes..."

The game will be updated to reflect the current DC Universe, with its many changes. Rules have been streamlined and "cleaned up," and the game rules, examples, and charts have been rewritten for increased clarity. The new \$25 boxed game will contain a "Welcome to Gotham City" solo adventure, a 72-page rules manual, a 64-page character handbook, a 96-page background/roster book, a 32-page Justice League International adventure, 75 character cards featuring full color illustrations and game statistics, a gamesmasters screen, an action wheel, and two ten-sided dice (and, we presume, a wheelbarrow to take this huge stack o' stuff home!). The newly revised *DC Heroes Role Playing game* should be available in August.

COMIC IMAGES UPGRADES SHIRTS

Comic Images, the company that has offered a wide variety of comics t-shirts, buttons, cards, and the like over the years, has had problems at times with the quality of their shirts; some fans had complained that the shirts were too lightweight and that the graphics weren't always particularly impressive. Comic Images has listened to the concerns, and they've made a major effort to upgrade their shirts. In September, they'll be offering a variety of shirts made by such noted companies as Screen Stars and Talking Tops; these shirts will be heavyweight 100% preshrunk cotton shirts, featuring bigger graphics, more vivid colors, and work by some of Marvel's most popular artists, including Spider-Man and Venom by Todd McFarlane, Wolverine by Mike Zeck, the X-Men by Art Adams, Wolverine by Jim Lee (featuring the eye-catching *Punisher War Journal* cover showing Wolverine holding a tattered Punisher shirt in his unsheathed claws), Silver Surfer by Jack Kirby, and more. The shirts will still cost only \$12.95 each. Comic Images is also offering a new Punisher sweatshirt, featuring the larger Punisher skull design on a black sweatshirt. The t-shirt with this larger logo has been a very popular item; you can look for the sweat to be equally popular once cooler weather gets here!

AIRCEL'S SET FOR A MONSTER SMASH

Walking Dead, an upcoming four-issue limited series from Aircel, is obviously inspired by such cult classics as *Night of the Living Dead*. Jim Somerville's new series focuses on a world in which the dead walk the earth again—and they're not to happy with the remaining live folks! In fact, the leader of the *Walking Dead*, Jak Krak, would really like to increase his ranks by killing off the last humans they can find. How well do they carry out their mission? You'll have to read *Walking Dead* to find out! The first issue of this monthly miniseries is set for September release. Fans of splatter films and horror-gore will want to haunt their local comic shop looking for this one.



SECRET ORIGIN'S NEW BUILDING PROGRAM

Secret Origins has looked at the history of a variety of heroes in its run, but *Secret Origins* #46 won't feature any heroes at all. Instead, this issue will take a look at the origins of the headquarters of three DC superteams. Grant Morrison, Curt Swan, and George Freeman give us a behind-the-scenes look at the origin of the Justice League headquarters; Marv Wolfman and Vince Giarrano explore the Titans Tower; and Gerard Jones and Kurt Schaffenberger take a tour of history in the Legion Clubhouse. Eliot Brown will supply a special blueprint cover for the issue. Incidentally, this will be the last monthly issue of *Secret Origins*; beginning with the release of *Secret Origins* #46 on October 26th, the book will be published on a bi-monthly basis.

REAL GHOSTBUSTERS HAUNTS BRITISH COMICS SHOPS

NOW Comics' *Real Ghostbusters* title will be available to CSN's British readers in the near future, courtesy of Marvel U.K. Tony Caputo, publisher of NOW, reports that Marvel UK has purchased the British reprint rights for the title, and will begin offering the book to British fans later this year.

This is a wonderful opportunity to expose our *Real Ghostbusters* to a whole new audience," Caputo said. "And what better company than Marvel Comics UK to make sure it's done to its full potential?"

Marvel UK also has plans to release a trade paperback of NOW's *Slimer* title as well; NOW had no release schedule for that book at the present time.

**COMIC SHOP
NEWS**

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Printing by
STAR
Acworth, GA.

NEWS BRIEFS

YEAR OF THE BAT CONTINUES

Everyone who's reading *CSN* knows just how popular Batman has been this year, thanks to a number of special comic book projects and the hit film (which has already earned over \$195 million). "The popularity of the character has held up over fifty years, but a resurgence began back in 1984 with the publication of *Dark Knight*," said DC Publisher Paul Levitz. "Sales on the Batman titles have increased steadily since then—and are skyrocketing now. Several projects that have been in the work are now ready for publication, so we've put them on the schedule. In the meantime, we are doing our best to keep our Batman trade paperbacks in print during a period of unprecedented demand."

DC had anticipated the Batman demand, so they had already reserved press-time and arranged for adequate paper supplies to ensure multiple printings on a fast schedule—much faster than is normal in the comics industry. "We are currently preparing our eighth printing of *Dark Knight*, our third printing of *Batman: Year One*, the fourth printing of *Batman: Son of the Demon*, and the third printing of *Batman: A Death in the Family*," Levitz said. "Also selling steadily are *Batman: The Killing Joke*, *The Greatest Batman Stories Ever Told*, *The Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told*, and *Batman: The Movie Adaptation*. We will keep *Batman: The Movie Adaptation* prestige-format book in print at least through the end of this year."

Upcoming Batman projects include *Arkham Asylum*, the hardcover graphic novel by Grant Morrison and Dave McKean, and *Legends of the Dark Knight*, a new monthly title that begins with a Denny O'Neil/Ed Hannigan miniseries-within-a-series. Both are set for October release. Later this winter, DC hopes to have Pepe Moreno's computer-generated *Batman: Digital Justice* available later this winter in a hardcover graphic novel format. Early 1990 should bring Mike Mignola's *Gotham By Gaslight*, a story that shows what might have happened had their been a 19th Century Batman facing off against Jack the Ripper in Gotham City. The current *Batman: Year Three* series also established a first of its own. "The 'Batman: Year Three' mini-series within the *Batman* series was so popular that we went back to press for a second printing of the first issue. That's the first time we've gone back to press on a so-called standard-format comic," Levitz said. "We've come a long way since *Dark Knight*," Levitz continued. "when we pioneered going back to press on the prestige format issues and then brought the book out in a trade paperback to stay in print. Thanks to *Dark Knight* and titles like it, we are now very much in the backlist business. It's a whole new way of doing business, since we had essentially published only periodicals. We're pleased to be able to keep these important works continually available for current and future readers." And of course fans are happy, since it means that readers who are new to *Batman* can enjoy the most popular Batman adventures from years past without having to pay top-dollar back issue prices.

BRENDA STARRS IN NEW COLLECTION

Brenda Starr, Dale Messick's intrepid female reporter who has starred in her own comic strip adventure series for almost a half a century now, will soon break into movies in a full-length feature starring Brooke Shields and Timothy Dalton. Unfortunately, her comic strip is carried in relatively few papers across the country, so many readers aren't really sure just who Brenda Starr is. Thanks to *Eternity Comics*, you'll be able to find out this September when Dale Messick's premiere *Brenda Starr* adventure is reprinted. The 112-page *Brenda Starr, Girl Reporter Trade Paperback* will be priced at \$10.

CINEFANTASTIQUE FOCUSES ON BURTON

Cinefantastique, one of the foremost film magazines focusing on science fiction and fantasy-oriented film, will devote a double issue to Tim Burton, the now-famous director of *Batman*. The October 1989 issue will feature a career profile of Burton; interviews with Burton, Sam Hamm, Anton Furst and others; and a special twenty-page spread that offers a technical look at the special effects of Burton's 1988 hit *Beetlejuice*. There will also be a retrospective look at Burton's other films, including *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, *Vincent*, and *Frankenweenie*. This extra-length \$9.95 *Cinefantastique* will also feature the usual reviews, previews, and production articles that make *Cinefantastique* one of the most popular titles with film fans who want to know more than the basics. Look for it in August—and you might want to let your local comic shop know that you want a copy of this magazine!

RUMBLINGS OF THUNDER...

Hero Comics' *Captain Thunder and Blue Bolt*, which has been on hiatus for a while, will return to comics racks in September with the release of *Captain Thunder & Blue Bolt* #s 11 and 12. Both books are set for September release (although Hero hasn't always had the best track record for getting its titles out on time); each will feature work by Roy & Dann Thomas and E.R. Cruz. The two issues will feature the conclusion to the Merchants of Menace storyline that was left unfinished when Hero took *Captain Thunder & Blue Bolt* off its schedule last year. Each book will be published in the standard 32-page \$1.95 full-color format.

In the meantime, Hero has rescheduled several of its already-announced projects: It now appears that *New Champions*, *Fantasy Book*, and *Flare Magazine* (reprinting *Flare* #1), originally promised for this spring, will be on the September release schedule.

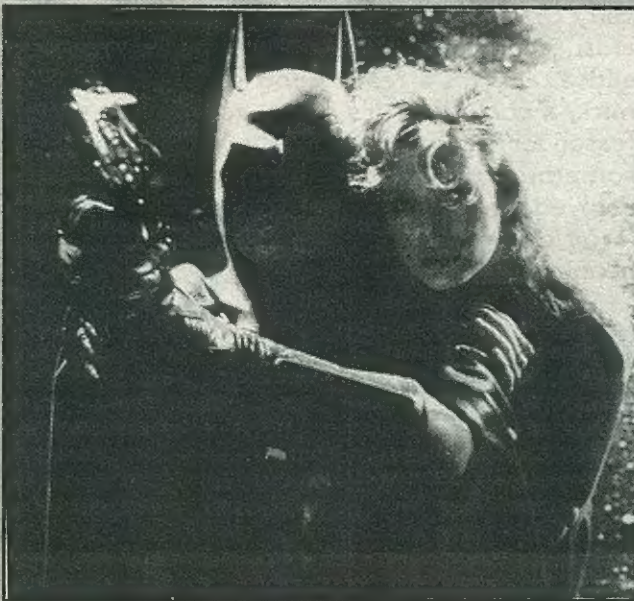
AC UNLEASHES HALLOWEEN HORRORS

October may seem pretty far away right now, but comics publishers are already looking ahead and making their Halloween plans. AC Comics is set to unleash a pair of Halloween specials this October, both featuring popular AC heroines. *Femforce in the House of Horror* pits the Femforce team against a demon-controlled theme park in Central Florida, where the monsters in the thrill rides turn into the real thing. This one-shot is written and illustrated by Greg Horn and inked by Mark Propst.

Nightveil's Cauldron of Horror is a combination new and reprint one-shot that features a Bill Black/Norman Hardy/Mark Propst lead story focusing on the beautiful sorceress from Femforce. The book will also reprint classic horror work by Wally Wood, Joe Kubert, and Bob Powell. Both books will be priced at \$2.50.

GRAPHITTI WAVES THE FLAGG

Graphitti Design's long-awaited continuous-tone lithograph of Howard Chaykin's painting *Reuben Flagg and Friends*, which *CSN* has told you about a couple of times before, is finally ready for shipping. So what was the delay? Well, it takes a while to produce artist-quality lithographs like this; we're not talking about a poster here,



but a gallery-quality piece that is painstakingly produced. That's why Graphitti is only offering 395 signed and numbered copies of the print; this isn't the sort of thing you mass-produce by the thousands!

Reuben Flagg and Friends is being prepared for release now that the prints are ready; the preparation includes preparing a mylar envelope for each one. The envelope will include, in addition to the *American Flagg!* print, a certificate of authenticity bearing the printing history of the lithograph. All this can be yours for \$150—but since items like this disappear from the marketplace very, very quickly, you should let your local comic shop know right away if you want a copy—and tell 'em that *CSN* sent you!

BUSHWACKER'S GUNNING FOR NEW GAME

The Punisher has gone up against some heavily-armed enemies—but few of them have carried their heavy armament as a part of their arms! The Bushwacker does, though—and he's as adept at using his weaponry as the Punisher is!

The two of them face off in *Punisher: War Journal* #12, written by Carl Potts and illustrated by Jim Lee and Bob Wiacek. Dr. Doom and the Kingpin also make an appearance in this issue, which is an "Acts of Vengeance" tie-in title. Look for it on September 28th.

MIREAULT READY FOR SLAVE LABOR

The Jam, Bernie Mireault's creation that has spawned two one-shots, will find a mini-series home at Slave Labor beginning in November. Mireault, who has worked with Matt Wagner on the *Grendel* series in the past, will write and illustrate the series; all six issues will feature covers by Matt Wagner.

The Jam, a 6-issue limited series, will be a bi-monthly 32-page black and white comic with a cover price of \$1.95.

"we have high hopes for *The Jam*," said Slave Labor's publisher Dan Vado. "The response at the Chicago Con to our picking up the series was nothing short of phenomenal. A lot of people are looking forward to *The Jam*, and we want to do everything we can to get copies of this book into people's hands."

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Issued bi-weekly for two months, thereafter, monthly.
New Format, beginning in August.

CSN SPOTLIGHT

by Charles Rutledge

Mike Baron was the subject of one of *Comic Shop News*' earliest interviews in 1987; at that time, he was just branching out from his work for First and had begun writing for Marvel and DC. Since then, Mike Baron has found even more outlets for his incredibly offbeat imagination; he's added Jade-man, Dark Horse, and Innovation to the list of companies that can boast having Mike Baron as a writer. *Comic Shop News*' Charles Rutledge visited Mike at his home in Wisconsin, where the two of them talked about Baron's current projects and upcoming work.

What's keeping you busy right now?

I'm working on Nexus and Punisher and Badger and Deadman and Butcher—primarily those. I'm also doing work for Jademan. That's a lot of projects, but they're not all concurrent, so it's a little easier to juggle than it sounds.

Tell us about the *Badger Goes Berserk* Series, and what's going to happen in *Badger* after that mini-series is finished.

Badger Goes Berserk is an attempt to explore the conditions that would create the Badger's multiple personalities. I'd always shied away from this in the past because it's more intense than the average *Badger* story, but then I realized "what the hey, they can show anything." The way the book is put to-

gether is a good idea; I think it was Larry Doyle's idea to use a different artist each time he switched personalities, and it's a really good gimmick, a cool idea. It's also a good reason for me to do the story; it was something different, something I enjoyed, and I got to work with a lot of other people.

Neil

Hansen, or Spider, is going to be the regular artist on *Badger* after the limited series is over, right?

Yes, that's right, and I'm really looking forward to that. Neil Hansen is a genius, a blazing star in the comics firmament, and I mean that sincerely, no matter how phony it sounds. He's one of the very few guys I know who can not only draw, but he also can bring a lot to the party. He doesn't just tell your story, he thinks about it, he adds to it, he helps to decorate that world and bring it alive. Neil's a great, great artist, and I'm very happy to be working with him.

Neil's also doing the main portion of *Badger Goes Berserk*; the other artists do the multiple-personality segments, but he does the basic frame of the story.

What's on line for the *Badger* after the *Badger Goes Berserk* storyline?

Oh, you know, more zen funny animal stories. In one issue, Badger takes this buffalo to Australia to race some emu across the desert. I got this idea

be fun, right?

What's happening with the Punisher?

There's a *Shadowmasters* crossover that's coming to a head in *Punisher* #25, the double-sized issue that has a big blow-out in a weapons factory. Those are Carl's characters; I enjoyed using them, but I think I'm going to give the ninja a rest for a while. Time to move on to something different!

There are two Russ Heath issues coming up; they have to do with defense fraud—not just waste, but out-and-out criminality and bribery and all that stuff. The two-part storyline is called "The Whistle-Blower." This guy works at this nuclear submarine factory and he sees all this going on; he tries to blow the whistle on it and they try to have him wiped out. It ends up with the Punisher and this guy at the helm of a nuclear submarine off the Atlantic Coast, holding the captain hostage with a gun and threatening to nuke the Secretary of Defense's estate in Virginia.

Bill Reinhold takes over as *The Punisher*'s artist after that; his first two issues have to do with the big fall crossover-continuity that John Byrne masterminded. This is the "Acts of Vengeance" crossover series, where the bad guys say, "Hey, let's change heroes, and we'll each take on each other's greatest nemesis," so it's basically the Punish-

from CNN; one day when I was half-watching tv, they had a guy on there who was racing buffalo in the quarter mile, and he was beating

just about every horse he raced! He had just been challenged to race an ostrich—this is all true, really true! I'm not making this stuff up here! So I figured that God had given me a gift here; this was obviously a *Badger* story.

There's another story that takes the Badger to a lake in British Columbia that has this Loch Ness Monster type creature. This Ted Turner-type character is searching for the monster to exploit him, to colorize him, whatever; Badger goes out there to stop them from finding the monster. Neil's drawing that, and it's really sharp. We've got some serious stuff coming up, too, but who cares about that? Comics are supposed to



NEXUS PENCILS BY TONY AKINS



NEXUS PENCILS BY TONY AKINS

CSN SPOTLIGHT

er versus Doctor Doom for two issues. They're not exactly fighting, but they'll certainly cross swords.

I hope that all those who were disappointed with the Punisher's "wussy" ending to the Kingpin saga—and I'll have to point out that that ending wasn't mine, because if I had had my way, he would have killed the Kingpin plain and simple, but they wouldn't let me get away with it—will be much happier with the conclusion to the Doom saga. I think it's a much more satisfying story.



THE PUNISHER

ghost, the ghost of a woman who's trapped in horrendous experiences by a demon. She can only be freed who confronts the demon. So where will she get a real live man? Well, she talks Deadman into inhabiting the body of a comatose athlete and using that guy. Unfortunately, there are many complications, including the athlete's life.

What's going to happen with Nexus? Will Horatio be returning in the near future, or will the series focus on Stan

for a little bit longer?

Then we have a story which is real gritty and ugly; it's called "Confession," and it shows what happens when the Punisher goes to confession. The Punisher goes to confession once or twice a year. He's a good Catholic—in fact, he's not only a good Catholic, but he's also a lapsed priest. We reveal in *Intruder* that the Punisher studied for the priesthood, so I guess I'm giving away a few secrets. That'll also be by Reinhold and Mark Farmer; Reinhold is going to be the regular artist on the series, and I'm glad to see it.

What's happening with the Deadman series?

Well, he's dead, Jim—but the series isn't. It'll be coming out as a two-part prestige format mini-series, with art by Kelley Jones. His work is unbelievable; I hate to say that, because you can say these things and it doesn't sound like you really mean it, but a picture is worth a thousand words, and once you get a chance to see a picture of this work, you'll know what I mean. It's intense horror; this is what I always wanted to do. It's about love and death, essentially. In fact, that's the title of the series: **Deadman: Love After Death.**

The story tells what happens when Deadman falls in love with another

The emphasis on Stan will be going on for a while longer; I can't say exactly how long because I'm not positive. I can say that people who think they know Stan are going to be shocked; nobody will be prepared for the heavy changes that are in store for Stan. They'll be an organic outgrowth of the present storyline, and they'll make a lot of sense for Stan and for the readers, but people will be shocked because they think they know Stan and they don't.

Are any of the other Merks who are mentioned in the series going to make an appearance?

Well....you know, that's an irresistible storyline to follow, but I think I'm going to save that until the Dude [Steve Rude, the regular Nexus artist who is currently working with Dave Gibbons on a *World's Finest* prestige format limited series for DC, teaming up Superman and Batman] comes back. I'm not sure when Steve will be available again, but I think it's going to be on or about issue number seventy six—but I could be completely wrong.

Right now, we've got Greg Guler doing three issues. After his issues, we have Tony Akins doing two issues. Tony is a Chicago artist, very stylish in approach. After that, we

have a number of other artists that we've considering. With the Dude gone, I'm trying to work with a variety of artists; if we can't get one guy to do twelve issues—and we just don't seem to be able to do that—then I want to work with a lot of artists whose work has interested me.

Hopefully, John Snyder and Jay Geldhof will do a couple of issues. We've asked Erik Larsen to consider doing a few issues; I liked working with him on *The Punisher*, and I'd like a chance to do some *Nexus* issues with him.

You were pretty pleased with Larsen's work, weren't you?

I thought Larsen did a great job on *The Punisher*. Larsen's Punisher was a big guy, a massive man; Whilce Portacio's Punisher was a little more slim, less massive. You know, it's funny; when a lot of people think of the Punisher, they think of Mike Zeck's Punisher, but that's not true for me. When I think Punisher, I think primarily of Whilce's and Erik's Punisher. Now, I'm thinking Bill Reinhold.

What's the Butcher, the other project you mentioned?

The Butcher is about a Sioux Indian who turns his back on his culture and then re-embraces it in modern times when he finds himself involved in a mission of vengeance. What I'm trying to do is show the contrast between Indian culture and contemporary American society, and how someone trapped between the two might feel. It's being illustrated by a new artist, Shea Anton Pensa, a transplanted Aussie. It's just in the beginning stages now; I have some of the pages, but it's not completed or set to go yet.

How did Group LaRue come about?

I wrote *Group LaRue* three or four years ago for a group of Philippine artists who said they had money and wanted to start an American comic.

We discussed all these books I was going to do for them and we planned the whole thing. They came up here in February, and it was like ten below zero, and they thought they were on the planet Pluto or something. As far as they're concerned, they probably were; it was cold weather even for us! Anyway, they came up and we had this

big meeting and I was to do all these books for them. Unfortunately, I never heard from them again; they disappeared into the woodwork.

I had mentioned the idea of *Group LaRue* to Dave Campiti a couple of years ago; when he started up Innovation, he asked if he could buy it. I was glad to sell it to him, since I had already put time into developing it.

I thought the book turned out really nice; the interior art is truly lovely. They haven't really learned how to color the thing, though; it has these terrible neon hues, and it really takes away from the artwork. The cover is a disaster, too; you can't read the logo, it doesn't stand out, and it's not a

particularly strong design. That's too bad, because I'm pretty happy with what's inside the book, except for the coloring.

Are you going to do anything else with Ginger Fox?

I might one of these days, if I can think up a really solid storyline. You know, the last story got away from me a bit; the Pander Brothers wanted to write, and they ended up pitching in a lot more than I had planned originally. But if the right storyline comes up, I'd look at another *Ginger Fox* mini-series.



GROUP LARUE



BADGER BY SPYDER



NEXUS BY TONY AKINS

CSN QUICKLIST

The upcoming comics quicklist is a listing of scheduled titles and the dates that they should arrive in comics shops across the country. That doesn't mean that the books will always be in your shop on the date listed: some publishers ship from different parts of the country, and the farther away the publisher is from your local comic shop, the longer it will take the books to get to you.

Each entry presents the title and number of the book, followed by the release date; if a title doesn't have a scheduled release date, we don't give you a date. After that is the Publisher of the comic and the price. This quicklist presents the titles that are supposed to ship during the rest of August. A complete checklist of titles due in September will appear in CSN 114.

- **Adventures of Superman 459** 8/31 DC .75
- **Allen Legion 13** 8/24 Marvel \$1.50
- **Allens II 2** Dark Horse \$2.25
- **Amazing Heroes 171** Fantagraphics \$3.50
- **American Color Special 1** Dark Horse \$2.95
- **Animal Man 16** 8/31 DC \$1.50
- **Appleseed: Book Three 1** 8/24 Eclipse \$2.95
- **Aquaman 5** 8/31 DC \$1
- **Archie 3000 5** 8/24 Archie .95
- **Archie's RC Racers 3** 8/31 Archie .95
- **Archie's Story & game Digest 13** 8/24 Archie \$1.50
- **Armor 8** Continuity \$2
- **Astonish! 2** Wehner \$2
- **Avengers 310** 3/17 Marvel \$1
- **Bad Company 12** Quality \$1.50
- **Badger Goes Berserk 4** 8/17 First \$1.95
- **Batman 440** 8/31 DC \$1
- **Batman Button Set 3** 8/24 DC \$8



- **Batman Special Edition TPB** Comics Interview \$9.95
- **Bayou Billy 2** 8/24 Archie .95
- **Beach Party 1** Eternity \$2.50
- **Big Black Kiss 2** Vortex \$3.75
- **Black Phantom 1** AC \$2.50
- **Black Terror 1** 8/24 Eclipse \$3.95
- **Blackhawk 8** 8/31 DC \$1.50
- **Captain Power 4** Continuity \$2
- **Cases of Sherlock Holmes 16** Northstar \$2.25
- **Cases of Sherlock Holmes TPB** Northstar \$8.95
- **Cat & Mouse 4** EF Graphics \$1.75
- **Cerebus 125** Aardvark-Vanaheim \$2
- **Cerebus Bi-Weekly 20** Aardvark-Vanaheim \$1.25
- **Charlie Chan 6** Eternity \$2.25
- **Checkmate! 21** 8/31 DC \$1.50
- **Cheval Noir 2** Dark Horse \$3.50
- **Classic X-Men 40** 8/31 Marvel \$1.25
- **Cloak & Dagger 8** 8/24 Marvel \$1.50
- **Comic Relief 4** Page One \$2.50
- **Comics Journal 132** Fantagraphics \$3.95
- **Comics Revue 37** Comics Interview \$3.95
- **Conan 225** 8/17 Marvel \$1
- **Conan Saga 31** 8/24 Marvel \$2.25
- **Continuum 1** Continuum \$1.50
- **Cosmic Heroes 9** Eternity \$1.95
- **Dark Assassin Vol 2 2** Greater Mercury \$2
- **Dark Horse Presents 34** Dark Horse \$1.75
- **Death's Head 10** 8/24 Marvel \$1.75
- **Demonblade 3** New \$1.95
- **Den 8** Fantagor \$2
- **Denzons of Deep City 5** Kitchen Sink \$2
- **Detective 27 T-shirt** Graphitti \$12.95
- **Detective 606** 8/24 DC \$1
- **Dick Tracy Weekly 100** Blackthorne \$3.50

- **Dick Tracy Weekly 101** Blackthorne \$2
- **Dilton's Strange Science 3** 8/17 Archie .95
- **Doc Savage 13** 8/17 DC \$2
- **Doctor Strange 10** 8/31 Marvel \$1.50
- **Donald Duck Adventures 18** 8/31 Gladstone .95
- **Doom Patrol 27** 8/31 DC \$1.50
- **Dragonforce Chronicles 5** Aircel \$2.95
- **Dragonlance 12** 8/24 DC \$1.50
- **El Diablo 3** 8/24 DC \$1.50
- **ETC 4** 8/31 Piranha \$4.50 *
- **Everything's Archie 146** 8/24 Archie .95
- **Ex-Mutants 13** Eternity \$1.95
- **Excalibur 15** 8/17 Marvel \$1.50
- **Eyes of Mongombo 1** Fantagraphics \$2
- **Fantastic Four 333** 8/24 Marvel \$1
- **Faust 5** Northstar \$2.25
- **Firestorm 90** 8/17 DC \$1
- **Flash 31** 8/17 DC \$1
- **Forgotten Realms 2** 8/24 DC \$1.50
- **Frost 1** Calliber \$1.95
- **Futurama 3** Slave Labor \$1.95
- **Gammaraiders 8** 8/17 DC \$2
- **GI Joe 93** 8/17 Marvel \$1
- **Green Hornet 2** 8/31 NOW \$1.75
- **Gregory GN** 8/17 Piranha \$7.95
- **Grey GN 1** 8/24 Viz \$16.95
- **Griffin 5** Slave Labor \$1.95
- **Grimjack 65** First \$1.95
- **Gun Fury 8** Aircel \$1.95
- **Hawk & Dove 5** 8/24 DC \$1
- **Hawkworld 3** 8/17 DC \$3.95
- **Hellblazer 23** 8/24 DC \$1.50
- **Hero Sandwich Graphic Novel 1** Slave Labor \$7.95
- **Hobbit 1** 8/24 Eclipse \$4.95
- **Hot Shots 1** Calliber \$1.95
- **Huntress 7** 8/17 DC \$1
- **Incredible Hulk 362** 8/17 Marvel \$1
- **Iron Man 249** 8/31 Marvel \$1
- **Jake Thrash 1** Aircel \$3.95
- **James Bond Book 3** Titan \$11.50
- **Jeremy Brood GN** Fantagor \$11.95
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- **Jughead With Archie Digest 95** 8/17 Archie \$1.50
- **Justice League America 31** 8/17 DC \$1
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- **Legendlore GN** Calliber \$8.95
- **LEGION '89 9** 8/31 DC \$1.50
- **Legion X-2 Vol 2 1** Greater Mercury \$2
- **Li'l Abner Vol 6** Kitchen Sink \$16.95
- **Little Archie Digest 39** 8/24 Archie \$1.50
- **Love & Rockets TPB 8** Fantagraphics \$12.95
- **Macbeth** Slave Labor \$2.95
- **Manhunter 18** 8/17 DC \$1
- **Marvel Age 81** 8/17 Marvel .75
- **Marvel Comics Presents 35** 8/24 Marvel \$1.25
- **Marvel Fanfare 47** 8/17 Marvel \$1.95
- **Marvel Masterworks Volume 8: The Hulk** 8/31 Marvel \$24.95
- **Marvel Tales 230** 8/17 Marvel \$1
- **Master 2** New \$1.95
- **Mayhem 4** Dark Horse \$2.50

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- *Moon Knight 7* 8/31 Marvel \$1.50
- *Mr. X 5* Vortex \$2
- *Ms. Tree 50* Renegade \$2.75
- *Nam 37* 8/31 Marvel \$1.50
- *Neuromancer GN* 8/17 Marvel \$8.95
- *New Humans 15* Eternity \$1.95
- *New Titans 59* 8/24 DC \$1.75
- *Nexus Legends 8* 8/17 First \$1.50
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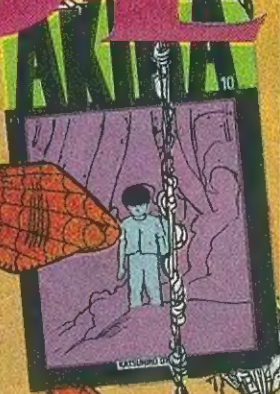
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